

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Wales Rally GB: Game, set and WRC 2 Pro titles\* for ŠKODA's Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen

- › With two more rounds to go in the FIA World Rally Championship 2019, ŠKODA factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/ Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) prematurely won the world champion titles of the WRC 2 Pro Championship\*
- › ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek finished second in WRC 2 Pro in Wales
- › ŠKODA Motorsport further increased lead in WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' standings

Llandudno, 6 October 2019 – ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC 2 Pro category at Wales Rally GB (03/10–06/10/2019), thus securing the WRC 2 Pro drivers' titles\* already two rounds before the final of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019. Thanks to additional points collected by their teammates Jan Kopecký (CZE) and co-driver Jan Hloušek (CZE), ŠKODA Motorsport could further increase the lead in the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' standings.

Driving a factory ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen dominated the WRC 2 Pro competition at Rally Wales GB right from the start. Only a puncture during the second but last stage on Friday made them drop to second position temporarily. They moved back into the category lead on Saturday morning, defending that position right to the finish line on Sunday. After WRC 2 Pro victories at the WRC rounds in Chile, Portugal, Sardinia and Finland, it was season win number five for the Finnish crew. With a points total of 176 and only the WRC rounds in Spain and Australia remaining, they cannot be caught in the WRC 2 Pro driver's standings any more.

Despite a puncture and a roll, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek ended Wales Rally GB in second place of the WRC 2 Pro category, helping ŠKODA Motorsport to further enlarge the lead in the category's manufacturers' standings. Both ŠKODA factory crews nursed their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo cautiously over the five stages of Sunday, which covered 38.42 competitive kilometres. "I think, we just need to enjoy the stages and bring the car carefully to the finish," Kalle Rovanperä said. And so he did, cheered by the team of ŠKODA Motorsport on the podium in Llandudno for winning the category and also prematurely securing the drivers' title of the WRC 2 Pro category.

"It is simply a great day for all of us. I have to thank Kalle, Jonne, both Jans, the whole team of engineers and mechanics and all persons, who with their efforts made this success possible. I am happy, that we could master this challenging event so well and that our ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo was performing without any weaknesses," ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek emphasized.

*\*subject to the publication of the official results by the FIA*

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## Result Wales Rally GB (R5 cars)

1. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 3:11:49.1 h\*\*
2. P. Solberg/Mills (NOR/GBR), VW Polo GTI R5, +45.0 sec.\*
3. Cave/Furniss (GBR/GBR), Hyundai i20 R5, +59.7 sec.
4. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:03.8 min.\*
5. Gryazin/Fedorov (RUS/RUS), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:08.9 min.
6. Katsuta/Barrit (JPN/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5 MK II, +3:21.5 min.
7. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta R5, +3:35.6 min.\*
8. Bulacia-Wilkinson/Cretu (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:53.9 min.\*
9. Andolfi/Inglesi (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +4:37.9 min.\*
10. Kopecký/Hloušek (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +4:47.0 min.\*\*

*\*\*Factory nominated crews eligible to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category*

*\*Private teams nominated for the WRC 2 category*

## Championship Standings WRC 2 Pro/Drivers (after 12 of 14 rounds)

1. Kalle Rovanperä (FIN), ŠKODA, 176 points
2. Gus Greensmith (GBR), Ford, 125 points
3. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën, 120 points
4. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 97 points

## Championship Standings WRC 2 Pro/Manufacturers (after 12 of 14 rounds)

1. ŠKODA, 300 points
2. Ford, 247 points
3. Citroën, 120 points

Number of the day: 2

With two rounds remaining in the FIA World Rally Championship 2019, ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) cannot be caught in the WRC 2 Pro championship any more.



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## The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

Event	Date
Monte-Carlo	24/01–27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02–17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03–10/03/2019
France	28/03–31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04–28/04/2019
Chile	09/05–12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05–02/06/2019
Italy	13/06–16/06/2019
Finland	01/08–04/08/2019
Germany	22/08–25/08/2019
Turkey	12/09–15/09/2019
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>03/10–06/10/2019</b>
Spain	24/10–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11–17/11/2019

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#### ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2019

ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) won WRC 2 Pro at Wales Rally GB, thus prematurely securing the category's drivers' titles of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019\*

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2019

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) finished second in WRC 2 Pro and collected valuable manufacturer points for ŠKODA Motorsport

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## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Haltunen (FIN/FIN) completed a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world.

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.